



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
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## **Vermont among Top Performers on National Math Assessment**

**MONTPELIER** – Only one state outperformed Vermont in eighth-grade math and only two states outperformed Vermont in fourth-grade math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), according to results released by the U.S. Department of Education today.

Highlights for Vermont results include:

- Vermont students were only outperformed by students in New Hampshire and Massachusetts on the fourth-grade exam.
- Vermont students were only outperformed by students in Massachusetts on the eighth-grade exam.
- Vermont was one of only five states or jurisdictions to show growth in scores in both grade levels, and all three New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) participants were included in that group of five (Vermont, Rhode Island and New Hampshire). The other two were Nevada and the District of Columbia.

“What is really impressive about these results is that the three NECAP states were already star performers,” said Commissioner of Education Armando Vilaseca. “It is easy to show growth when you are on the lower end, but for these well-performing states to continue to show growth is notable.”

Vermont has shown steady gains on NAEP in both fourth and eighth grade math since 2003. Fifty-one percent of Vermont grade four students achieved the rating of “at or above proficient” compared to 38 percent of fourth-graders nationally. Forty-three percent of Vermont grade eight students achieved the rating of “at or above Proficient” compared to 33 percent of eighth-graders nationally.

Poverty-based achievement gaps are still a concern. The gap between students eligible for the free/reduced priced lunch program and their peers is formidable (19 points in grade four and 23 points in grade eight).

“While it is incredibly exciting that Vermont students perform so well compared to other states and continue to post gains on NAEP, it is disappointing that our low-income population did not improve to our expectations this year,” said NAEP Coordinator Susan Hayes. “We must determine how to address the stubborn achievement gap that persists between disadvantaged youngsters and their wealthier peers.”

Vermont students took the exam during the months of January, February and March of this year. As part of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), all states must participate in NAEP assessments in reading and mathematics at grades four and eight every other year. National and

state-to-state comparisons are based on data from public schools only. Results for individual schools or students are not reported. For Vermont's NAEP results, visit:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_assessment/data.html#naep](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/data.html#naep).

For a complete set of national results, visit <http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

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